

The Impact of the US Criminal Justice System on Black Americans

Dr. Crystal McLeod, LCSW, BCD
Mental Health Therapist

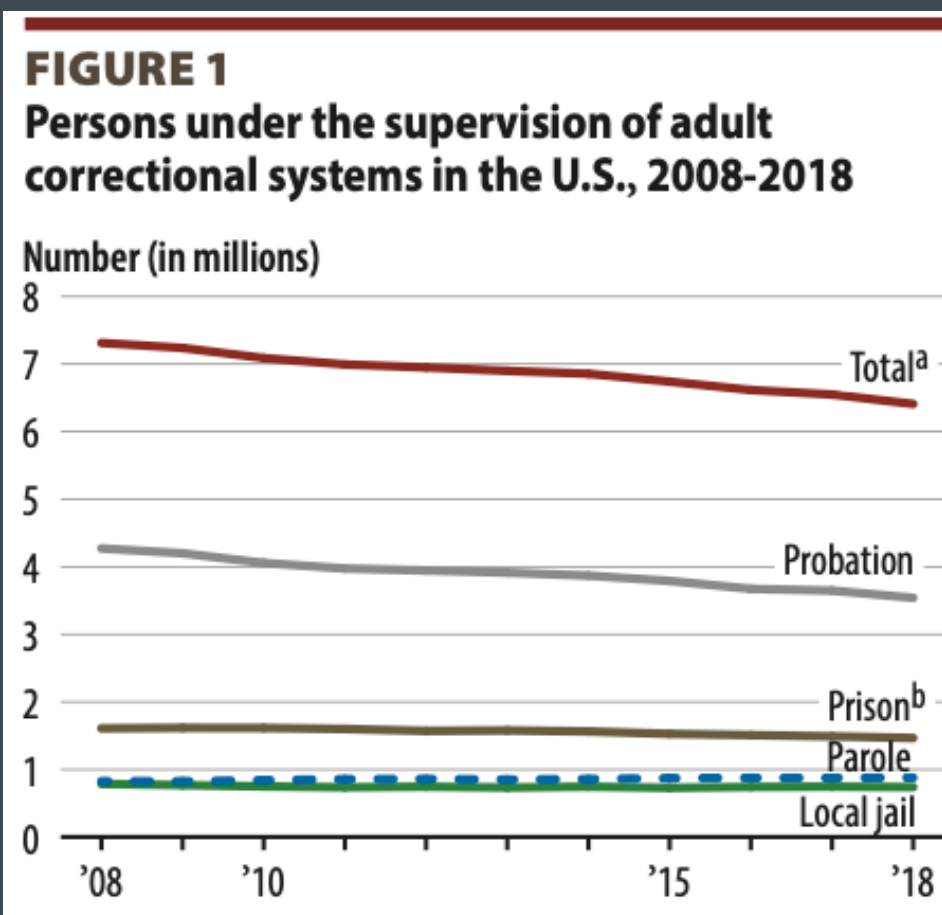


Overview

- Relevant Statistical Data
- Who does Recidivism Impacts?
- Theories
- Implicit Biases
- Impact on Black Americans
- Rehabilitation vs Incarceration
- What needs to change?

Relevant Data

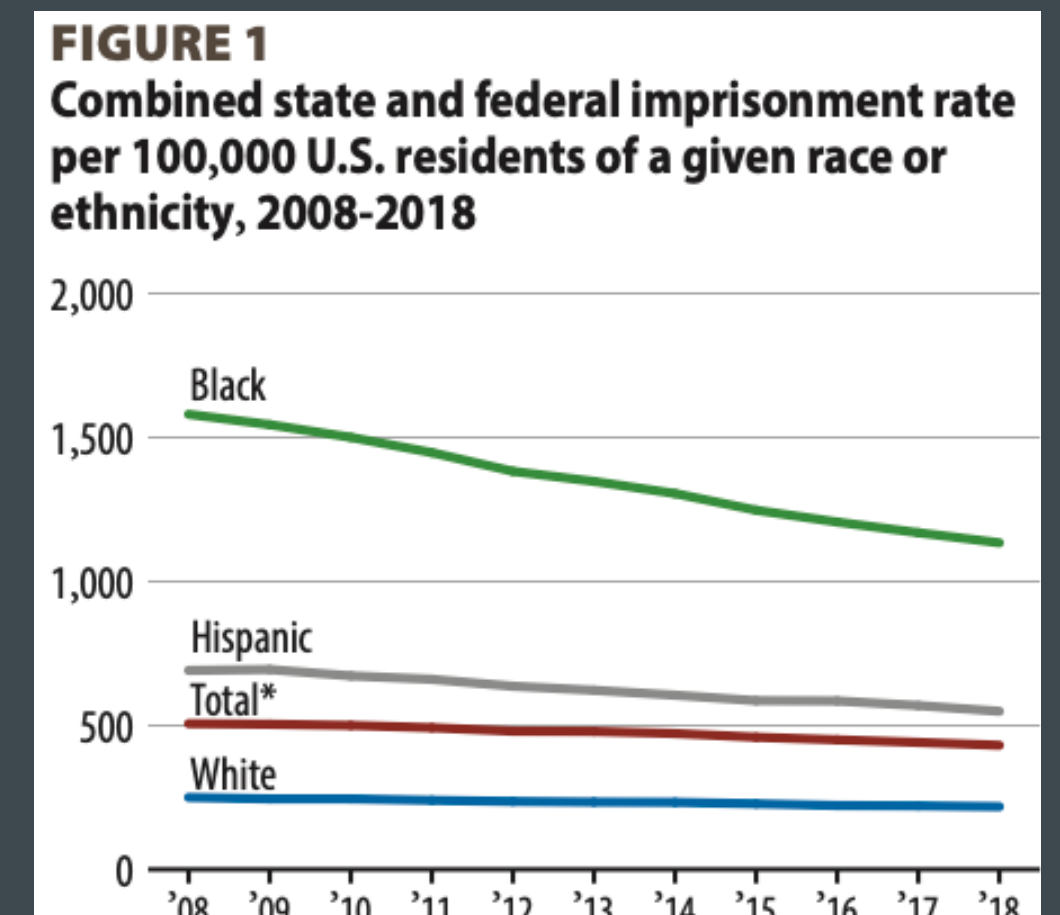
Incarceration Rates & Race *2018



*Black Males are imprisoned at a rate of 13x's more than their white male peers. This is the highest racial disparity amongst any age group.

*Black Females ages 18-19 are more likely to be imprisoned than their white peers.

*Almost half of the prisoners sentenced were serving time for drug offenses.



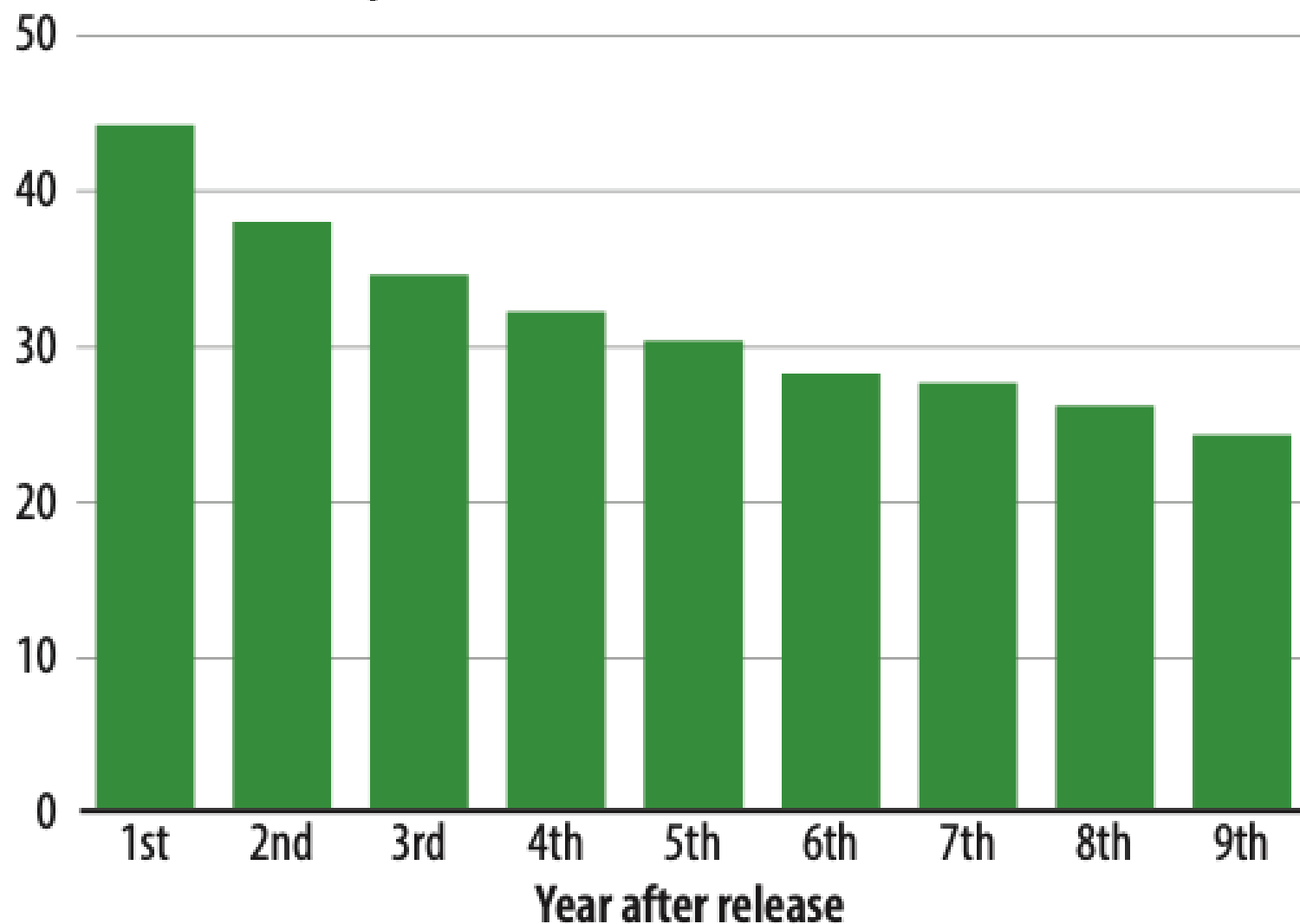
RD: 2018 Update of Prisoner Recidivism 2005-2014

If prison populations are decreasing why are recidivism rates increasing?

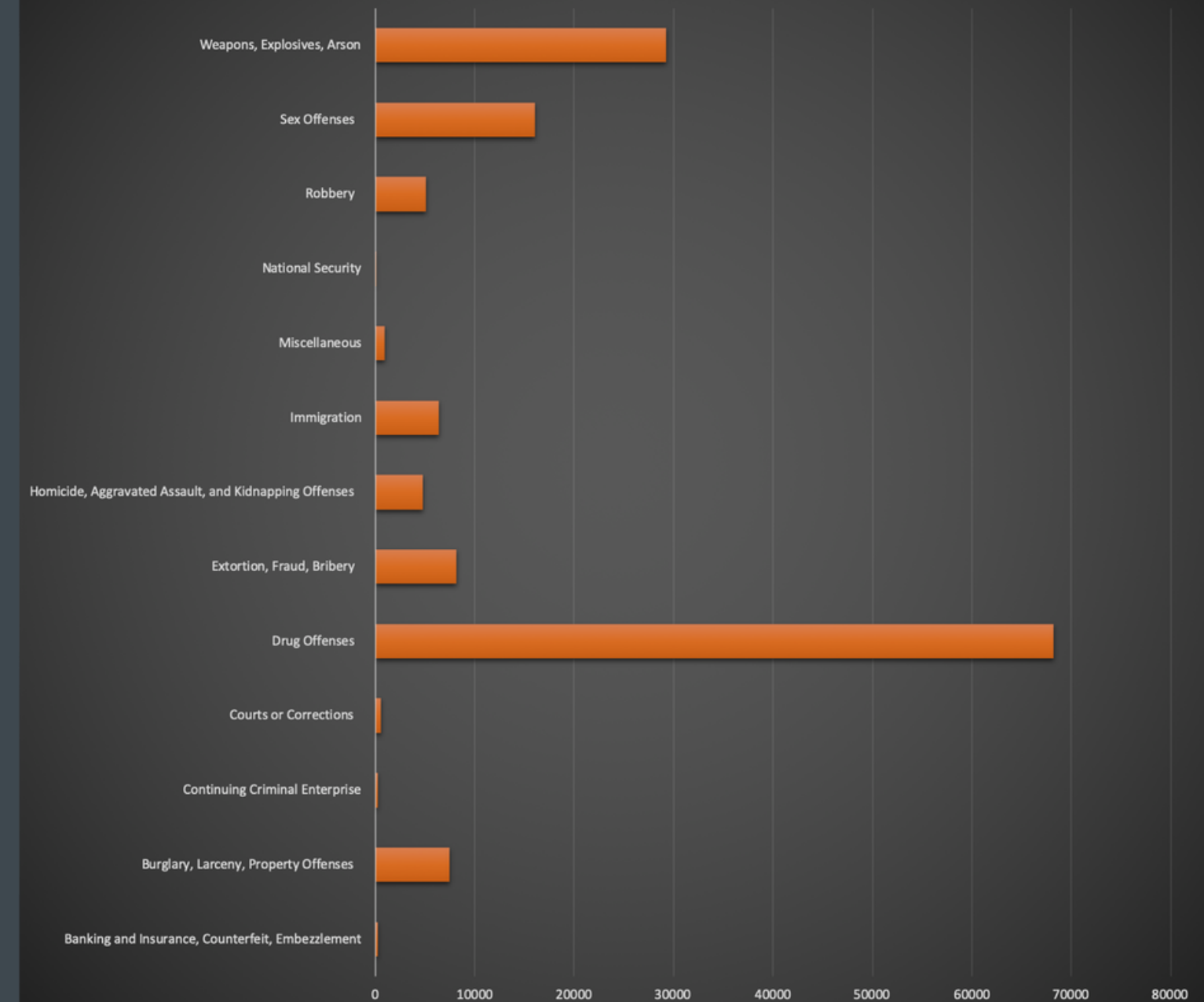
FIGURE 1

**Annual arrest percentage of prisoners released in
30 states in 2005**

Percent of released prisoners



Inmate Offenses



RD: Mental Health & Race

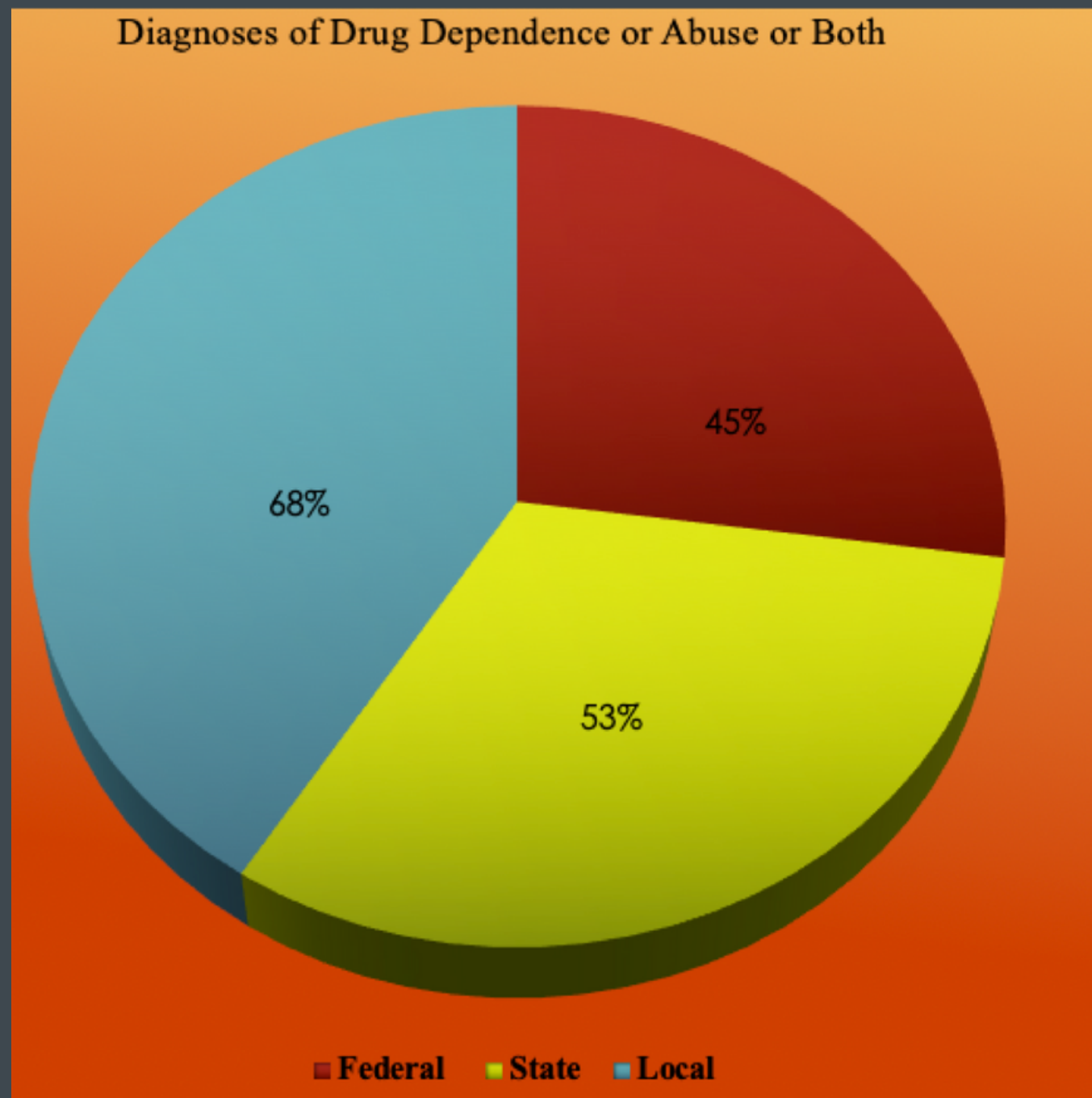


TABLE 2

Prevalence of mental health indicators among prisoners and jail inmates, by demographic characteristics, 2011–2012

Characteristic	Serious psychological distress ^a		History of a mental health problem ^b	
	Prisoners	Jail inmates	Prisoners	Jail inmates
All inmates	14.5%	26.4%	36.9%	44.3%
Sex				
Male*	14.0%	25.5%	34.8%	40.8%
Female	20.5**	32.3**	65.8**	67.9**
Race/Hispanic origin ^c				
White*	17.3%	31.0%	50.5%	56.8%
Black	12.5**	22.3**	30.0**	36.2**
Hispanic	11.5**	23.2**	25.6**	31.3**
Other ^d	19.7**	31.5	47.9	55.8
Age				
18–24*	14.9%	26.3%	36.3%	42.3%
25–34	14.8	25.9	37.3	43.6
35–44	14.1	26.1	36.4	44.4**
45–54	15.1	28.8**	37.9	47.7**
55–64	13.1	25.2	37.3	50.4**
65 or older	9.5**	20.2	30.8**	39.9

IMPACT

Finances/Unemployment

- 27% of previously incarcerated individuals are unemployed. This number is higher than the great depression.
- The Black unemployment rate is 7.4 percent vs whites at 3.7 percent.
- Individuals who enter the system are overwhelming poor.
- Criminal Background checks are a major discriminator

Family and Community Impact

- Policing which causes collateral damage to Black Communities
- Children of incarcerated individuals show poor school performance and behavioral problems.
- Women whos partners are incarcerated suffer higher rates of depression.
- Communities with high levels of removal produces immense social and economic disadvantages (i.e. prevents investors from investing in area, lack of businesses etc.)

Mental Health

- Empathetic Incurement, when people become toned death, they dont recognize the impact of their absence so their ability to reintegrate is decreased which can land them back into prison.
- Substance Relapse (lack of treatment for MH conditions), history of untreated drug abuse and mental health
- Stress about meeting probation requirements, court dates and fees. This can impact employment. Taking off work to meet obligations
- Lack of support for family reintegration
- Lack of access to consistent support after release (i.e. highest rates of returning to prison is the first year).

Theories that Impact Black Mental Health after Incarceration



Social Norms Theory

The social norms theory aims to understand the environment and interpersonal influences in order to change behavior, which can be more effective than focusing solely on the individual to change his behavior

Labeling Theory

Labeling theory when it comes to criminology states that being formally labeled as an offender causes one to internalize stigmatizing attitudes, withdraw from conventional society and conform to deviant activity

How does Implicit Biases Impact How Social Justice is Delivered for Black Americans?

(Discussion)

Common Impacts to Mental Health During Reintegration

- Stigma Associated with getting help
- Ineffective family reintegration
- Distrust in the medical care system
- Lack of Diversity in providers for care
- Lack of Culturally responsive caregivers
- Civic Limitations (voting, license, i.d., background checks, felon interaction, no housing etc.)
- Finances (unemployment doesn't allow you to focus on mental health)
 - Probation requirements
 - Paying court fees/probation fees
 - Child support requirements

Additional Impacts?

Is Rehabilitation more Effective than Incarceration?

Incarceration

- Once your in the system it becomes a revolving door
- Lack of rehabilitative efforts in prison
 - More about control of bodies
- Lack of experience treating MH vs time to treat
- Increased trauma that exacerbates present trauma
- Lack of family support
- Reintegration plans are non existent
 - Going back to the same place with same issues
- Increases poverty due to economic exclusion
- Criminal Record decreases employment ops by 50%
- Worsens Mental Health conditions

Rehabilitation

- Consistency in treatment
 - Force Rehabilitation increases higher appt attendance
- Safer detox for substance user and those who experience trauma
- No criminal record, increases employment opportunities
- Individualized Treatment
- Decreases prison populations
- Provides true second changes in society
- Involves Family
- Decrease recidivism
- Builds and sustains marginalized communities

Recommendations

Rehabilitation Is Also About Perception and Normalization of Behaviors

- Decreasing negative social norms surrounding Black People and communities
- Research & study Black mental health
 - Low data in this area. We must know what we are treating in order to do it.
- BE HONEST! Implicit biases are a factor in the interactions of Blacks in the criminal justice system.
 - Many of the new amendments and acts are band-aids to the real long term impacts of incarceration.
- Overhaul police and correctional training programs for employees
 - More accountability and rigid screening processes (i.e. focus on mental health) Why?
- Divert money to break up school to prison pipelines.
- Stop privatization of prisons in the US
 - Rules are too fluid in these settings
- Increase treatment facilities at the local levels, increases access for family support and therapy
- Expunge first time drug offense records, makes up 46% of the prison system now

Other Recommendations & Thoughts?

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THANK YOU!

Questions, Concerns, Feedback